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FROM: Kika de la Garza

Washington D C

COMING RIGHT ALONG in 13 of the House's 20 committees are 39 pieces of de la Garza legislation.

So far only one is on its way to the President's desk. This is co-sponsored HR 11, Public Works Capital and Investment Act making funds available for public works projects especially in areas with high unemployment. The House passed its version of the bill in February. The Senate passed another. A conference hashed out the differences. Now it will be up to the President.

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ANOTHER BILL made it out of the House. This would provide career education for secondary and elementary school students. The co-sponsored HR 7 would provide funds for a program to help these young students become aware of the career options available to them. The Senate is working on a similar version of the bill.

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IMPORTANT TO ALL BORDER BUSINESSMEN is the pending de la Garza HR 3333 to make small business loans available in certain economic disasters such as the devaluation of the Mexican peso. Executive comment has been asked by the Small Business Committee on the bill. Regularly I urge hearings.

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NOT TOO SURPRISING in view of the time factor, most of the other de la Garza bills are in committee hearings or awaiting comment from the Executive Department.

Every bill must go through a process of committee and subcommittee referral, hearings, executive comment, House and Senate passage, and if not passed by both into conference, and finally signature of the President before becoming law.

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THE AGRICULTURE RESEARCH part of the Farm Bill has been in Agriculture Subcommittee on Department Investigations, Oversight, and Research hearings. Meantime the de la Garza subcommittee awaits comment from the Department of Agriculture.

Another Agriculture Committee bill is HR 75, Soil and Water Conservation Act to set policy on the conservation of our soil and water natural resources. The Senate has passed a companion bill. An Agriculture subcommittee is considering the Administration's comments now on this de la Garza bill.

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PROVIDING CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT on all government regulations is HR 322 on Congressional Oversight, Administrative Procedure, and Government Regulations under consideration in the Judiciary Committee. It remains to be seen where we go with this one.

Another Judiciary Committee bill -- HR 323 -- is the de la Garza gun control bill. This amends the criminal code to make mandatory prison sentences of 10 years for a first offense using firearms in a robbery, assault, rape, burglary, kidnapping, homicide, interstate transportation; a second offense 25 years.

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TWO DE LA GARZA BILLS in the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee would make Cameron County's Resaca de la Palma Battlefield and the Palo Alto Battlefield national historic sites. A subcommittee has taken no action. We live in hope.

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SO FAR WE'VE LOST PART OF ONE. HR 324 was to prevent the moving of the Border Patrol Academy from Los Fresnos. It didn't fly. The House approved appropriations to have part of the academy activities moved, but we are still trying.

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IN THE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE four de la Garza co-sponsored bills are pending. These bills are being considered as part of an over-all reform legislation on the Social Security Act and the Internal Revenue Code. Some would amend the Social Security Code to increase the amount of earnings permitted without deductions, increase benefits with delayed retirement, and reduce the age to 65 that deductions of outside earnings would be made on benefits.

The Internal Revenue Code would be amended to help aircraft users recover losses through income tax refunds on gasoline tax payments.

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THE MERCHANT MARINE AND FISHERIES COMMITTEE -- one of my assignments -- has been working on various bills providing for the continued funding for research and development of tuna and other fisheries, and for protection of endangered species. The Committee is holding markup sessions on the bills for revision.

Subcommittee hearings are being held on the Merchant Marine and Fisheries bill providing for the development of aquaculture in the United States.

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IN THE VETERANS COMMITTEE is the co-sponsored HR 3125 providing for payment of service pension for World War I veterans or their spouses and children. The Committee is awaiting executive comment before further consideration.

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THE GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE has two de la Garza co-sponsored bills, HR 2422 and HR 3534. The first would give the comptroller general additional authority to audit certain expenditures and is awaiting executive comment. The other would provide for a reorganization of the executive branch commission. Both are pending in the Subcommittee on Legislation and National Security.

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HOUSE RESOLUTIONS are House business only. The measure to establish a Select Committee on Narcotics Abuse and Control was a de la Garza co-sponsored proposal.

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MEANTIME, I KEEP TRYING to push three constitutional amendments; one to limit the President to one six-year term and to set an age limit; another to prohibit the federal budget to exceed revenues except in time of war or national emergency; and the third to allow prayer in public buildings. All are under consideration by the Judiciary Committee where no action is scheduled.

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VISITORS FROM HOME: Visiting my office from home this week were Mr Mendal Hughett of Alice; Mr Stephen A Bosio of Brownsville; Mr Lee Gandy of Donna; Mr Mike Wallace of Edinburg; Mr Dan Adami III, Mr Joe Carrales, Elisa H Jasso, and Angelita Porter of Freer; Mr David Alex, Mr Chuck Rivera, Mr Paul Seligson, Mayor Bob Youker, of Harlingen; Mrs Morris Atlas, Mr Tom Ball, and Mr and Mrs Lee Taylor who now live in Mexico, of McAllen.

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